



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

April 11, 2025

Dear Stakeholders:

Mexico notified me tonight that they have turned on one pump of their PBCILA lift station, which should help remove some of the wastewater flowing into the Tijuana River from the International Collector project.

This is great news, considering Mexico originally planned to not activate the station until Sunday. We loaned them a front-end loader that they used to clear sediment around the station's intake valves.

Although they're starting with one pump for now and it's likely not all the 3-5 million gallons a day (MGD) of flow caused by repairs on a junction box will be removed before Phase 1 finishes next week (when the flow is expected to cease), this is a positive development.

PBCILA will send flow to the San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) wastewater treatment plant on the Mexican coast.

This repair is the final work that needs to be done to complete Phase 1. Mexico considered several alternatives and decided on this one because it resulted in the least flow to the river. (Other alternatives could have resulted in 25 MGD going to the river).

We are continuing to work with Mexico regarding when to begin Phase 2, which will result in flows stopping to the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) for about six days. During this period, PBCILA will be turned off, and another pump will send this wastewater to the Mexican coast.

Rehabilitating the International Collector is a complex, around-the-clock job that so far has kept more than 600 million gallons of wastewater out of the river.

When it's done, this refurbished pipeline will send most of Tijuana's wastewater to SBIWTP and SAB while reducing leaks and transboundary flows, and the potential for a catastrophic collapse of Tijuana's largest collector pipe.

We are continuing to receive daily briefings from Mexico, and I will make sure to update you on any significant developments.

Our X site is a good place to check for updates: <https://x.com/usibwc>

Warm regards,

Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, P.E.
Commissioner (U.S. Section)
International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico
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